U.S. Embassy Asuncion, Paraguay Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Protests in Asuncion 11 May 2016

Please be advised student demonstrations are taking place outside Mburuvichá Roga on Avenida Mariscal Lopez. Police have blocked traffic in both directions on Mariscal Lopez starting at the intersection of Brasilia/Kubitschek. The Paraguayan National Police are closely monitoring the demonstration. The demonstration, which includes unplanned marches creating traffic congestion, is expected to continue through this afternoon. As a result, the American community is strongly urged to avoid the intersection of Avenida Mariscal Lopez and Kubitschek/Brasilia.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational andescalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Paraguay enroll in the <u>State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates and makes is easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's <u>website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Paraguay</u>. For additional information, refer to the <u>Traveler's Checklist</u> on the State Department's website.

Contact the <u>U.S. Embassy</u> or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call <u>1-888-407-4747</u> toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or <u>1-202-501-4444</u> from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

The U.S. Embassy in Asuncion is located at 1776 Mariscal Lopez Avenue.

U.S. Embassy Asuncion contact information:

Tel: 011-595 21-213-715

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